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have been professing to teach them for the last two and twenty years.

9. That his most Christian Majesty Louis X. III. is so fully impressed with the humane and benevolent sentiments of the Great Britain and the Allies in favour of the abolition of the Slave Trade, that he was ready to have plunged all Europe into a war for its continuance.

10. That we could not possibly make the abolition, though the French Government would certainly have made the revival, of the Slave Trade a *sine qua non* in the Treaty of Peace, and that they would otherwise have gone to war to recover by force of arms what they can only owe to clemency or complaisance of our Negotiators.

Lastly, That by consenting to the re-establishment of the Slave Trade in France, we were most effectually preparing the way for its abolition all over the world.

"With so little a web as this will I ensnare so great a fly as *Cassio*!" Such were the formidable barriers, the intricate lines of circumvallation, drawn by the French round the abolition of the Slave Trade, as strong as those which they threw up to defend their capital: yet we think, that after our political missionary had over leaped the one, he might have broken through the other. Where there is a will, there is a way. But there are some minds to which every flimsy pretext presents an insurmountable obstacle, where only the interests of justice and humanity are at stake. These persons are always impotent to save, powerful only to oppress and to betray. Their torpid faculties and amiable apathy are never roused but by the calculations of self-interest, or the thirst of revenge. The glossy sleekness of the panther's skin does not blunt the sharpness of his fangs, and his fawning eye dooms his victim while it glitters. But to return to Lord Castlereagh. In the present instance he appears to have been cajoled into acquiescence from his indifference to the object. His speech contained nothing but a story of a cock and a bull, told by M. Talleyrand with great grace and gravity, assented to by his Lordship with equal affability and address, and repeated to the House of Commons with hesitating volubility and careless plausibility of manner. It is well to sacrifice to the graces; but it is too much to have sacrificed half a continent to the graces of M. Talleyrand's person, or the purity of

his French accent. We can imagine how the scene took place. This question of Africa being considered as an idle question, in which neither courts nor ministers were concerned, would be naturally left as a sort of *carte blanche* for all the flourishes of national *politesse*, as a kind of *no-man's ground* for a trial of diplomatic skill and complaisance. So Lord Castlereagh, drawing on his gloves, hemmed once or twice, while the French Minister carelessly took snuff: he then introduced the question with a smile, which was answered by a more gracious smile from M. Talleyrand: his Lordship then bowed, as if to bespeak attention; but the Prince of Benevento bowing still lower, prevented what he had to say; and the cries of Africa were lost amidst the nods and smiles and shrugs of these accomplished puppets. The ex-bishop of Autun may in future hope to find a successful representative in the English Ambassador from Paris; for the noble Secretary *mistified* the house, as he had himself been *mistified* by his Highness of Benevento. Count Fathom, after his defeat by the French Abbe, practised in this his adopted country with great applause. We may take this opportunity of remarking, that we do not think his Lordship at all improved during his stay in France. He performs the arc of his oscillation from the treasury bench to the table, and from the table back again, in a second less time than he used to do. He commits dullness with greater vivacity, and flounders more briskly in an argument. He is even grown tenacious of the immaculateness of his maiden treaty, which he will not have so much as suspected; and has enhanced the loose, dangling, slipshod manner, which so well accords with his person and understanding, into something positive and dogmatical. In this alteration of tone we think him wrong. We have always looked upon Lord Castlereagh as an excellent taffetta lining to a court dress; but he should leave the buckram of office to his friend the Secretary of the Admiralty.

SPEECH OF THE DUKE OF SUSSEX ON PRESENTING THE ANTI-ORANGE PETITIONS FROM THE NORTH OF IRELAND, ON THE 23D ULT.

The Duke of Sussex rose, and observed

that he had a variety of petitions to present from the Catholics and Protestants of various parts of Ireland. For the information of the House he should move that one of them be read, as they were all the same. They were against a society called the Orange Lodge. He had had them in his possession some time with an intention to present them; but he had come down to the House several days without finding any of the Ministers present, and had thought it improper to lay them on the table in their absence. He had waited, therefore, for a Meeting like the present; but he did not mean, as there was an interesting subject which already stood for that evening's discussion, to press the matter upon the attention of the House. He thought it his duty, however, to present the petitions, because he conceived that when other Societies were being put down, when the Catholic Board (upon whose proceedings he should deliver no opinion) was laid aside, and when it was known that elsewhere a Bill had been introduced for preserving the peace of Ireland, the moment was come for Government itself to take some measure with respect to the associations referred to in those Petitions. If he should learn from the sentiments of Ministers, that it was their intention to suppress the system, then he should think it unnecessary to make any ulterior motion; but if not, he should bring the question before their Lordships. He could not, however, dismiss the subject without begging that one of the petitions might be read. The substance of the allegations contained in them was, that these societies were bound together by secret and illegal oaths (illegal because conditional,) that they formed processions in which there were a number of armed people, armed societies being unconstitutional, and that the existence of these lodges gave rise to other societies of a different nature, but equally distressing to the country. One of the petitions was then read. It and several others from different districts in Ireland, were ordered to lie on the table.

ORANGE SOCIETIES.

The subsequent debate took place in the House of Commons on the 15th inst. in a committee on the Irish Seditious Meetings Bill. Notes are added to illustrate the subject.

Sir Henry Parnell* rose to call the attention of the committee to the bill, as one of the greatest importance, under the present circumstances of Ireland. He had not opposed the Speaker's leaving the chair, because he believed that some legislative measure was necessary to restore the peace of that country; but in respect to the bill, the only part which he could approve of was the preamble, which stated this necessity to exist. The various enactments of it were not, in his opinion, either justifiable by any sound principle of legislation, or by the state of things in Ireland. For this reason, he was sorry a committee had not been appointed to examine into the question, as the result must have been a very different proceeding from that they were now called on to agree to. By the assistance of such an inquiry, the committee would have been able to understand exactly what was the state of Ireland, which they could not do from the information given to it by the Right Hon. Secretary. Though he had mentioned a great many outrages, and proved a considerable extent of disturbance to prevail, he had not explained the system on which the several illegal associations which existed in Ireland were formed, their various ways of extending themselves, or the objects they had in view; neither had he told the House, how many there were of these Associations. The Right Hon. Gentleman has described the Thrashers, Carders and Caravats, which infest the central parts of the Country, but he has said nothing of the continual disturbance of the peace, the riots, battles and loss of lives which are almost daily occurring in the Province of Ulster, or of the Association of Orangemen, to which this state of the North is to be attributed. In speaking of the Orangemen, it was necessary to draw a distinction between those who were called so because they were Protestants who were hostile to Catholic emancipation, and those who were associated in Lodges, and by a secret Oath for the purpose, as they hold out, of maintaining the Protestant Ascendancy; the former

* Sir Henry Parnell, in a letter to, the person who undertook the management of the petitions, observes, "The lateness of the hour has been the cause of the very brief report of what passed, which has appeared in the Newspapers."